



Sermon Text: Acts 16:11-40

Sermon Date: June 24, 2018

On Sunday we witnessed Christ save three very different people in three vastly different situations in three various ways. While there were more than these three people saved during Paul's ministry in Philippi (see verse 40), Luke highlight's these individuals because their stories reveal that Jesus is mighty to save all different types of people.

MIGHTY TO SAVE THE RICH AND SUCCESSFUL

On their first Sabbath day in Philippi, the missionaries discover a small group of ladies praying by a river. While many of us might overlook this small gathering, we see that **no opportunity is too small for Jesus to save**. While Paul shares the gospel, the Lord opened a woman named Lydia's heart to believe. Lydia was a merchant from the Asian city of Thyatira who specialized in expensive purple cloth. She would have been wealthy, successful, and influential; yet, she was seeking something more in life than the mirage of success.

MIGHTY TO SAVE THE POOR AND OPPRESSED

On the other end of the social spectrum, we encountered a demon-possessed slave girl who was freed from her bondage. She was able to foretell aspects of the future, earning her owner's a lot of money. She began following the mission team around, crying out "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." While her words were true, they were easily misunderstood in a polytheistic society. So, after many days, Paul commands the spirit to leave her in the name of Jesus Christ. Her story tells **no person is too lost for Jesus to save**. Contrasting her story with Lydia's we are reminded that no person can make it to heaven because of their social standing. Both rich and poor must come to Jesus in the same way—trusting in Him alone.

MIGHTY TO SAVE THE STRONG AND THE SCARED

After Paul and Silas are beaten and thrown into jail, we watched God save the Philippian jailer. He would have been ex-military, battle-tested, hardened to stare down criminals. But when he discovers that the prison doors are open following a large earthquake, he draws his sword to kill himself. In that desperate, dangerous place, Jesus meets him there through the merciful message of Paul. **No situation is too dire for Jesus to save**. In the moment of his greatest need, the gospel saves him.

MIGHTY TO SAVE YOU

Jesus is mighty to save the rich and successful. He is mighty to save the poor and oppressed. He is mighty to save the strong and the scared. Surely, then, He is mighty to save you—no matter who you are. As Christians, we must eagerly share the gospel because we know that God is mighty to save anyone at any time according to His good pleasure.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from this Sunday?
2. What are some opportunities that God places before you regularly to bear witness to Christ? How can you remind yourself that no opportunity is too small for Jesus to save?
3. How would you live differently if you really believed that God could save any person at any time by simply sharing the gospel?